

Message Text

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ACTION SIG-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 /014 W
-----033963 062129Z /70

R 051250Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2154
INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1291

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASIG GC
SUBJECT: INSPECTION OF AF/S POSTS: MEMORANDUM

REF: STATE 103653

1. AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL (WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE
POUCHED INSTRUCTIONS), FOLLOWING ARE PROBLEMS SIGNIFICANTLY
AFFECTING OUR OVERALL OBJECTIVES AND WHICH WE HOPE
INSPECTORS MAY HAVE OCCASION TO LOOK INTO:

A) PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: PRESIDENT KHAMA WILL RECEIVE AN
HONORARY DEGREE AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY ON JUNE 8, AND HAS
ASKED FOR A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH WOULD SERVE
OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IN GABORONE
0650, 0715 AND 0905, WE ENDORSED AND JUSTIFIED THIS REQUEST
BECAUSE OF ITS ESSENTIAL IMPORTANCE FOR U.S. POLICY. WE
UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT STRONGLY ENDORSES THE PROPOSAL.
NEVERTHELESS TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN AN EMBARRASSING
(FOR US) AND IRRITATING (TO GOB) SILENCE. WE WOULD
HOPE INSPECTORS' INQUIRIES IN DEPARTMENT MIGHT ASSIST
IN GETTING A FAVORABLE DECISION.

B) PROGRAM GRANT: EARLY IN 1978 AID AND STATE APPROVED
IN PRINCIPLE A PROPOSAL FOR MAKING A PROGRAM GRANT OF
SOME \$9-10 MILLION TO GOB IN FY 1978, TO OFFSET SOME
OF THE DEVELOPMENT FUNDS DIVERTED TO SUPPORT THE NEWLY
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CREATED BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCE. THE GRANT DOCUMENT WAS
HAND CARRIED TO WASHINGTON THE FIRST OF APRIL. BECAUSE
OF THE SERIOUS AND GROWING SECURITY THREATS, THIS GRANT
HAS ASSUMED INCREASING URGENCY AND IMPORTANCE IN OUR
BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN MID-APRIL WE REITERATED REASONS
FOR ITS CRITICAL IMPORTANCE AND ASKED FOR A STATUS
REPORT. NEITHER A REPLY NOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT HAS BEEN

RECEIVED FROM AID/W.

C) HUMAN RIGHTS: IN 77 GABORONE 3067 AND GABORONE 0812, WE OUTLINED SUGGESTIONS FOR ACCORDING POSITIVE RECOGNITION TO BOTSWANA'S ENVIABLE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD BY UTILIZING FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR THAT GENERAL PURPOSE UNDER SECTION 116(E) OF THE FAA. AN AID/W REPLY RECEIVED NEARLY FIVE MONTHS LATER IS NOT RESPONSIVE TO OUR REQUEST AND EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT POLICY GOAL.

D) NEW OFFICE BUILDING: LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE ENABLING US TO SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A PROPOSAL (SENT UNDER COVER OF AN OM MAY 3) FOR FINANCING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW OFFICE BUILDING. A MOVE HAS BECOME ESSENTIAL BECAUSE OUR PRESENT OFFICE SPACE LEASE IS NOT BEING RENEWED BY THE OWNER AFTER 1980. SUCCESSIVE LEGAL OBSTACLES IN THE DEPARTMENT DELAYED PROGRESS FOR A TIME. WE HOPE LEGAL OBSTACLES TO ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW PROPOSAL WILL BE QUICKLY REMOVED.

E) ADDITIONAL SELF-HELP FUNDS: TO DATE, WE HAVE COMMITTED ALL BUT \$26,000 OF OUR FY 1978 SPECIAL SELF-HELP (SSH) ALLOCATION OF \$110,000 (AFTER SELF-HELP WAS ERRONEOUSLY CUT OFF IN FY 1977). THERE IS EVERY PROSPECT THAT THE FULL AMOUNT WILL BE FULLY COMMITTED BY MID-YEAR. TO PREVENT LOSS OF MOMENTUM OF THIS HIGH-IMPACT AND VALUABLE FOREIGN POLICY TOOL, CONFIDENTIAL

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WE HAVE URGED CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO INCREASING BOTSWANA'S SSH ALLOTMENT.

F) TRADE FAIR: A RECENT MESSAGE (KHARTOUM 1918) MADE A WELL-TAKEN POINT CONCERNING THE COMPLIMENTARY NATURE OF POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL PURPOSES TO BE SERVED BY USG PARTICIPATION IN TRADE FAIRS. WE AGREE, AND WISH TO QUESTION THE WISDOM OF USDOC ALLOTING SUCH SMALL SUMS ANNUALLY (\$2,500 IN 1977) TO FINANCE OUR PAVILION AT THE GABORONE TRADE FAIR. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, USDOC HAS NOT YET PAID EVEN THIS INADEQUATE AMOUNT, SO WE ARE FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF OUR CONTRACTOR REFUSING TO PERFORM NEEDED RENOVATION FOR THE 1978 FAIR (SEE GABORONE 1191)

G) VOA TRANSMITTER: LATE LAST YEAR (77 GABORONE 3185), THE GOB GAVE APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE TO A VOA-ESTABLISHED AND OPERATED TRANSMITTER IN BOTSWANA, WHICH WOULD BE USED BY RADIO BOTSWANA DURING THE DAY AND WOULD RELAY VOA PROGRAMS IN THE EVENING. WE AND GOB ARE AWAITING U.S. REACTION AND INDICATIONS OF CONCRETE INTEREST.

H) PERSONNEL: I HAVE CALLED ATTENTION REPEATEDLY TO THE NEED TO UPGRADE THE LEVEL OF POSITIONS HERE, E.G.,

THE DCM JOB FROM O-4 TO O-3 (OTHER AGENCY REPS ARE AT THE LEVEL OF R-3 OR EQUIVALENT); THE POL/ECON POSITION SHOULD BE ELEVATED FROM O-5 TO O-4 GIVEN LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY; DITTO FOR ADMIN OFFICER. RESULT: NO ACTION ON DCM POSITION AND JUNIOR O-5S ASSIGNED TO POL/ECON AND ADMIN POSITIONS.

I) PEACE CORPS: WE HAVE URGED REVIEW OF TRAVEL GUIDELINES FOR PCVS RECENTLY ISSUED BY PC HEADQUARTERS WHICH ARE NOT CONSISTENT WITH OVERALL U.S. POLICY, INTERESTS OR OBJECTIVES. WE BELIEVE THE SITUATION REQUIRES PROMPT ATTENTION TO AVOID UNFAVORABLE REPERCUSSIONS AND MORALE PROBLEMS.
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